

**ESSB 6226** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 51.36.070 and 2001 c 152 s 2 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Whenever the director or the self-insurer deems it necessary  
6 in order to resolve any medical issue, a worker shall submit to  
7 examination by a physician or physicians selected by the director,  
8 with the rendition of a report to the person ordering the  
9 examination. The department or self-insurer shall provide the  
10 physician performing an examination with all relevant medical records  
11 from the worker's claim file. The director, in his or her discretion,  
12 may charge the cost of such examination or examinations to the self-  
13 insurer or to the medical aid fund as the case may be. The cost of  
14 said examination shall include payment to the worker of reasonable  
15 expenses connected therewith.

16 (2) The self-insured employer shall ensure that all relevant  
17 medical records of the injured worker scheduled for an independent  
18 medical exam are provided as electronic medical records to the  
19 independent medical exam physician or physicians, and, if electronic  
20 medical records are not possible, paper records must be delivered to  
21 the independent medical exam physician or physicians at least ten  
22 business days prior to the scheduled exam. If the independent medical  
23 exam is scheduled to occur before ten business days or if a medical  
24 record only becomes available to the employer during the ten business  
25 days, then the paper records must be delivered to the independent  
26 medical exam physician as soon as possible before the exam occurs.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The collaborative for the advancement of  
28 telemedicine established under section 2, chapter 68, Laws of 2016,  
29 in consultation with the department of labor and industries, shall  
30 conduct a study of the feasibility of telemedicine for independent  
31 medical examinations under Title 51 RCW. The collaborative shall

1 submit a report on its findings and any recommendations to the  
2 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2018."

3 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Strikes requirements for the development of policies and physician training by the Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine (Collaborative) relating to telemedicine for independent medical examinations (IMEs). Directs the Collaborative to conduct a study, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Industries, of the feasibility of telemedicine for IMEs and submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2018.

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